

# THE WI HIVE

Your fortnightly buzz on Suffolk West

Issue 23 | 18 February

**Chairman's Tête-à-Tête** Hello Everyone, on 1st April we should have been enjoying our Federation Annual Meeting at The Apex, I don't need to tell you that this will not be possible, The Apex will probably not be open and even if it were, there would be social distancing with only a quarter of the usual seats being in use. This of course is not financially viable. However, the Board and I felt that we should have as good an Annual Meeting as possible. We have therefore rescheduled for the 10th April and instead it will be presented virtually on Zoom. I know this may preclude some who would love to come along and I'm sorry about that, but by then it might just be possible that a member who can't access a computer will be able to go to a friend's house to watch it, we will have to see what the regulations are by then. We have decided to trial the meeting on a Saturday which may serve to include those who work during the week. We will be inviting WIs to put forward a delegate, the necessary paperwork will be sent out to WI secretaries very soon, but also visitors will be most welcome, so book your place as soon as you can.

On a personal note I thought you may like to see our beautiful barn owl we call Barney who hunts in our paddocks. Isn't he drop dead gorgeous?



Keep safe, Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

## Office Information

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Reg. Charity Number: 1179294

Open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-4pm

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Suffolk West  
**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

FOR 100 YEARS



## Suffolk West Federation Annual Meeting

**Saturday 10 April 2021**  
**10.30am TBC**  
**via Zoom**  
**Cost: FREE**



**With guest speakers**  
**Dr Chris Smith**  
**& Simon Gregor**

This year we are delighted to bring our Annual Meeting to you free of charge!

We will be joined by our two entertaining and informative guest speakers. Dr Chris Smith is a medical consultant specialising in clinical microbiology and virology at Cambridge University and its teaching hospital, Addenbrooke's. You may have seen him giving interesting, easy to understand information on COVID on BBC Breakfast and BBC Look East, he also is the founder of Naked Scientists, a programme that presents science shows, podcasts and radio.

Historian Simon Gregor, works on the Denman at Home programme. Simon will be talking to us about the Cambridge Colleges, something he has personal experience of as a past student of the University.

Please note this event will not be available on Eventbrite. You will need to book tickets with the WI Office on [office.swfwi@gmail.com](mailto:office.swfwi@gmail.com)

### Obituary: Edith Hawkins

Fornham All Saints are sad to report that long standing member of almost 60 years, Edith Hawkins, has passed away aged 94.



Edith joined Lavenham WI in 1952 and after her move joined Fornham All Saints WI in 1959. She was an active and loyal member, being Secretary and Outings organiser and also arranged the successful annual WI Jumble Sales. Edith was renowned for her home made wines and when we took part in the Co-operative Cup in our 75<sup>th</sup> birthday year, she won a cup for her wine! On one of our outings the venue had a barrel-organ and Edith said that ever since she was a little girl she had always wanted to play one, the venue let her and she was absolutely delighted (see above picture)! Edith was also the Poppy co-ordinator for years for Fornham All Saints. A lovely, kind lady who we will remember with great affection.

Elizabeth Gingell, President

**Cookery Corner** Bored of Banana Bread? Why not try Sandra Smith's (Mildenhall WI President) Apple Cake



Ingredients (Serves 6-8 people)

225g Cooking Apples	2tsp Mixed Spice
225g Sultanas	1 Egg Beaten
150ml Milk	175g Unsalted Butter
175g Soft brown sugar	25g Demerara Sugar
350g Self Raising Flour	

1. Mix together the peeled, cored and chopped apples, sultanas, milk and soft brown sugar.
2. Sieve together the flour and spice then rub in the butter. Add the fruit mixture, egg and mix.
3. Place in a buttered and lined 20cm (8 inch) square cake tin. Sprinkle with the demerara sugar. Bake in the oven at 170C (375°F), gas mark 3 for 1 and ¾ hours until risen and golden brown.

Delicious served warm with custard, cream or ice cream. *Enjoy!*

### Public Affairs Memo: WI campaign news

#### Buses for every community

Remember the *A Call Against The Decline In Local Buses* resolution that was passed for improving/maintaining bus



services in rural communities? Even in the midst of the current pandemic, many people in the UK are wholly reliant on buses, but those buses are still under threat.

Now CPRE (The Countryside Charity) have started an online petition asking the Secretary of State for Transport Grant Schapps to invest in a reliable bus service for every community, every town and every village. You can sign the petition [here](#) and don't forget to share it among friends, family and those around you.



#### Show The Love 2021

In our last issue Gwen Williams (PA Chairman) and Lesli Tunbridge (Climate Ambassador) challenged you to take part in the **Show the Love** campaign using the power of green hearts to join together.

Boxford WI made an abundance of hearts to **Show the Love** for the people in Boxford. They are available to take from the Village Stores and the Box River Cafe.



Linda Bevan (Sturmer and District WI) created this beautiful green heart for her window, and said "My pledge is to buy peat free compost this year and in the future."



Thank you to all our members who took part. Campaigns are on going all year round, you can get involved anytime, find out more on MyWI [here](#).



## March Events

Thursday 4 March / 7.30pm

### Remarkable Women: An Evening with Clare Mulley

Clare has written three books about remarkable women. Her first book, *The Woman Who Saved the Children*, won the *Daily Mail* Biographers' Club Prize, and *The Spy Who Loved* led to Clare being decorated with Poland's national honour, the Bene Merito. Clare's third book, *The Women Who Flew for Hitler*, tells the extraordinary story of two women at the heart of Nazi Germany, whose choices put them on opposite sides of history, and was long-listed for the Historic Writers Association Non-Fiction Crown. She also reviews non-fiction for the *Spectator* and *Telegraph*.

Clare is happy to answer questions about her and her work. If you have a question please send it to the WI Office by Monday 1 March.



Tuesday 9 March / 2pm

### Paint Along with The Quirky Bird

Lynn has become some what of WI sensation! She is a water colour artist based in Staffordshire and has become well known for her quirky bird images. This paint-a-long session is a fun filled lesson on how to paint a quirky piece of art. To take part you will need:

- watercolour paints (or pencil or wax crayons)
- a brush
- pencil
- fine liner pen
- watercolour paper



Thursday 11 March / 2.30pm

### Friends Against Scams with Natwest

Written inline with trading standards, this talk will cover current trends from telephone calls and text messages to romance and investment scams.

Telling people what to look out for and sharing some good tips on how to keep safe and not become a victim. **This is a free talk for members and will not be available on Eventbrite. Please book with the WI office.**



Thursday 18 March / 7.30pm

### South American Travels with Brenda Last

Join Brenda on a breath taking trip to Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil and hear about some of her unexpected experiences along the way. **This is a free talk for members and will not be available on Eventbrite. Please book with the WI office.**



Wednesday 31 March / 7.30pm

### Khaki Devils and the Great War Huts with Taff Gillingham

You may have seen Taff on TV talking about the consultations he's had with directors about British war dramas. For us he is going to delve into his work with Khaki Devils, including some fascinating facts about the uniforms worn in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as update us on the Great War Huts Project.

**Tickets are £5 per person.**

Book using our Eventbrite page [here](#) or contact the WI Office (Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm) on [office.swfw@gmail.com](mailto:office.swfw@gmail.com)



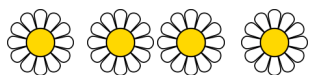
Wednesday 24 February

7.30pm

### My Life as an Illustrator and Designer with Alison Gardiner

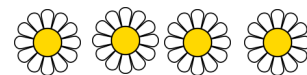
Alison is the designer of our Federation Centenary mug and keyring. She talks about how her career has developed after studying printed textiles to the giftware business she has today.





## The Daisy Chain

Linking together our WI members across the county



### Glemsford WI A Vaccination Tale

I went to the Epicentre,  
and had my Covid vaccine.  
The place was quietly busy,  
But the atmosphere serene.  
Yes, had to go to Haverhill,  
For my appt. at quarter past two.  
Went straight to the booking-in desk,  
Surprised there was no queue.  
I answered a number of questions,  
Before being taken elsewhere.  
Then a young man showed me a cubicle,  
and asked that I sat on the chair.  
He asked me further questions,  
as he filled in another form.  
I removed my coat and one jumper,  
Not that it was particularly warm.  
The air felt cool but healthy,  
As I sat and awaited my jab.  
Then a masked and aproned medic appeared,  
A smile, some questions, then a stab!  
Over in a few minutes,  
But told to wait for fifteen.  
This vaccination system,  
Is the most efficient I've seen.

Jenny Wears, Glemsford WI

**Rickingham WI** Whilst it has been difficult to meet, members have kept themselves busy with various projects and crafts. Linda and Lesley who are in a 'bubble' together have been continuing their doll's house hobby in lockdown. They work in 1/12 scale that can be very fiddly and messy with glue!

Fay, who owns a dress making and alterations shop in Rickingham, kept herself busy making around 100 face masks which she sold and has now donated £100 to the East Anglia Children's Hospice. In addition, Faye made about another 50 face masks for family and friends. She has also cross stitched a height chart for her granddaughter and is now busy on cross stitch pictures and knitting.

A number of our other members have likewise kept themselves busy with various crafts including embroidery, knitting and sewing. We will be inviting them to bring along samples of their creations to one of our first meetings.

Rosemary Setterfield, President

### Sturmer WI Covid 2021

The year is now 2021  
The virus is still here  
We're now in another lockdown  
With normality nowhere near

The hospitals are overwhelmed  
With rising COVID patients  
The death toll of 100,000  
Is against all expectations.

Vaccines will be our saviour  
The production has begun  
The over 80's are being called  
To have the Pfizer one.

Captain Sir Tom Moore  
Has sadly passed away  
The upbeat message he has left is  
"Tomorrow Will Be a Good Day."

Diane Freeman, Sturmer WI

HAPPY  
*Birthday*

**Thurlow WI** invite members to join us in wishing Iris Eley a very happy 90th Birthday on March 12th. Iris joined the WI at the age of 54 and has been a stalwart supporter of our group for nearly 40 years, a valued Committee member for most of those years and epitomises the role of the WI. Many Happy returns to a wonderful lady.

Helen Bennett, President

